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Fenton et al.

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[45] **Date of Patent: Jan. 16, 1996**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSPORTING AND DISPLAYING NECKTIES**

[75] Inventors: **Frank Fenton**, Edison, N.J.; **Jeffrey Spiegel**, New York, N.Y.; **Thomas Shea**, Norwalk, Conn.; **Lawrence Stuart**, Morristown, N.J.

[73] Assignee: **Randa Corp.**, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **21,075**

[22] Filed: **Feb. 23, 1993**

Related U.S. Application Data

[62] Division of Ser. No. 912,984, Jul. 14, 1992, Pat. No. 5,249,668.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **B65D 85/62**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **206/279**; 206/296; 211/70; 229/120.36

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 53/443, 473; 206/44 R, 206/45.14, 278, 279, 292, 296, 297; 211/13, 70, 95, 115, 163; 220/555, 602; 229/120.36, 120.37, 162

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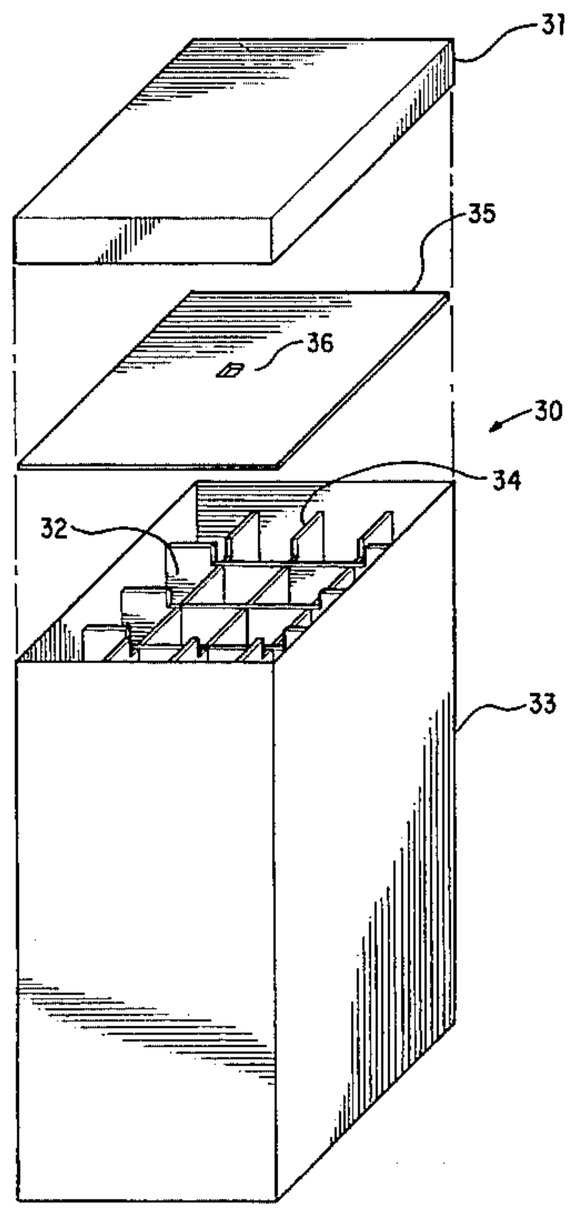
Primary Examiner—Jimmy G. Foster
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hoffman, Wasson & Gitler

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A revolvable rack for neckties that can be either temporarily or permanently hooked or fastened to a rod or a store fixture, and a container for shipping the rack while it is fully loaded with ties. The rack is easily rotated by hand, has a relatively small turning radius and has the capacity to hold several dozen ties. Once the tie rack is placed in the container, the container serves to both store and protect the ties in an organized and out-of-the-way manner. The tie rack and container combination can be hung together in an existing space. The container allows the fully loaded tie rack to be quickly and easily lifted out of the container in one smooth motion, and directly hung on a rod or on a merchandising fixture in a store without the use of special tools or equipment, such that the ties are readily and pleasingly displayed.

17 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



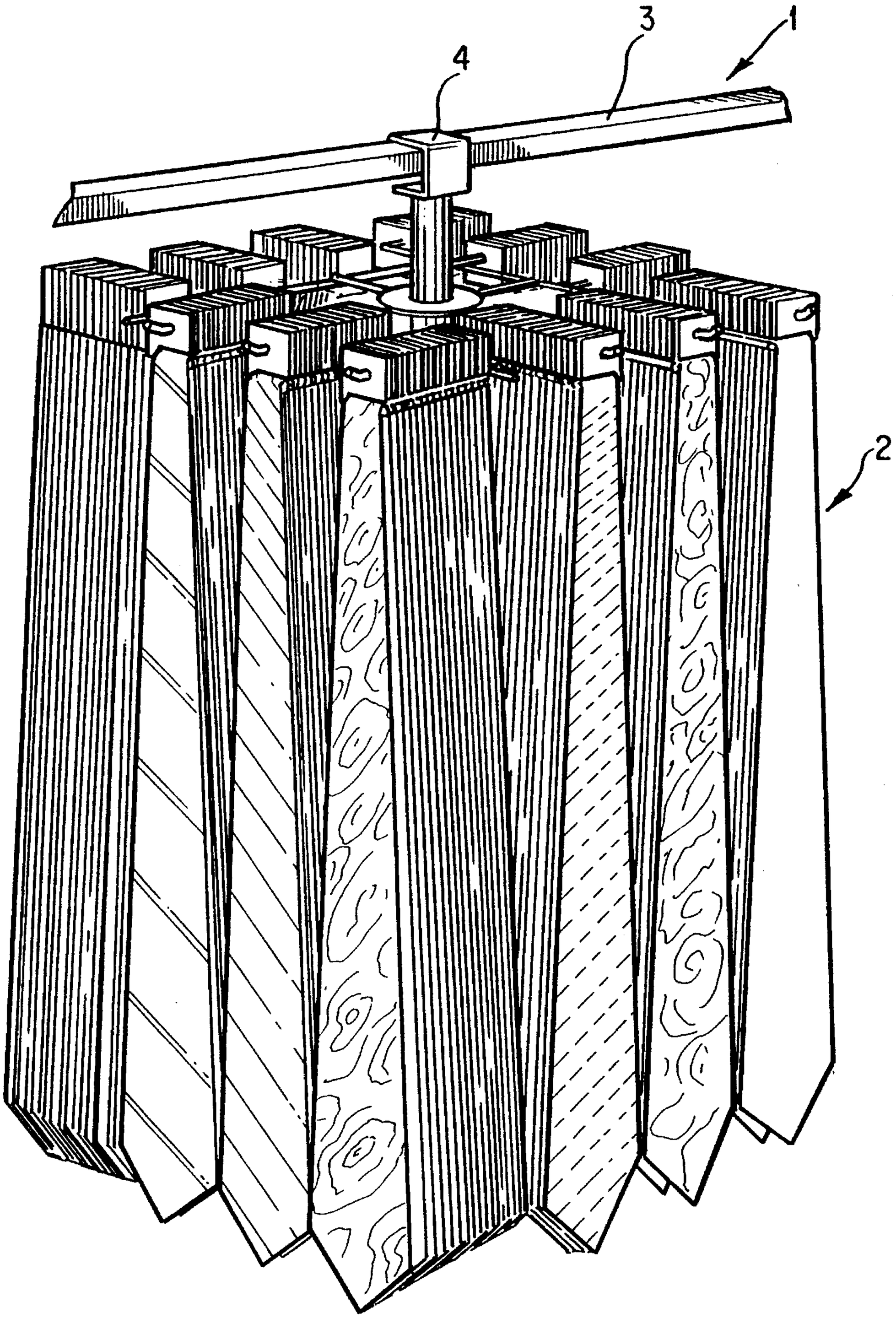


FIG. 1

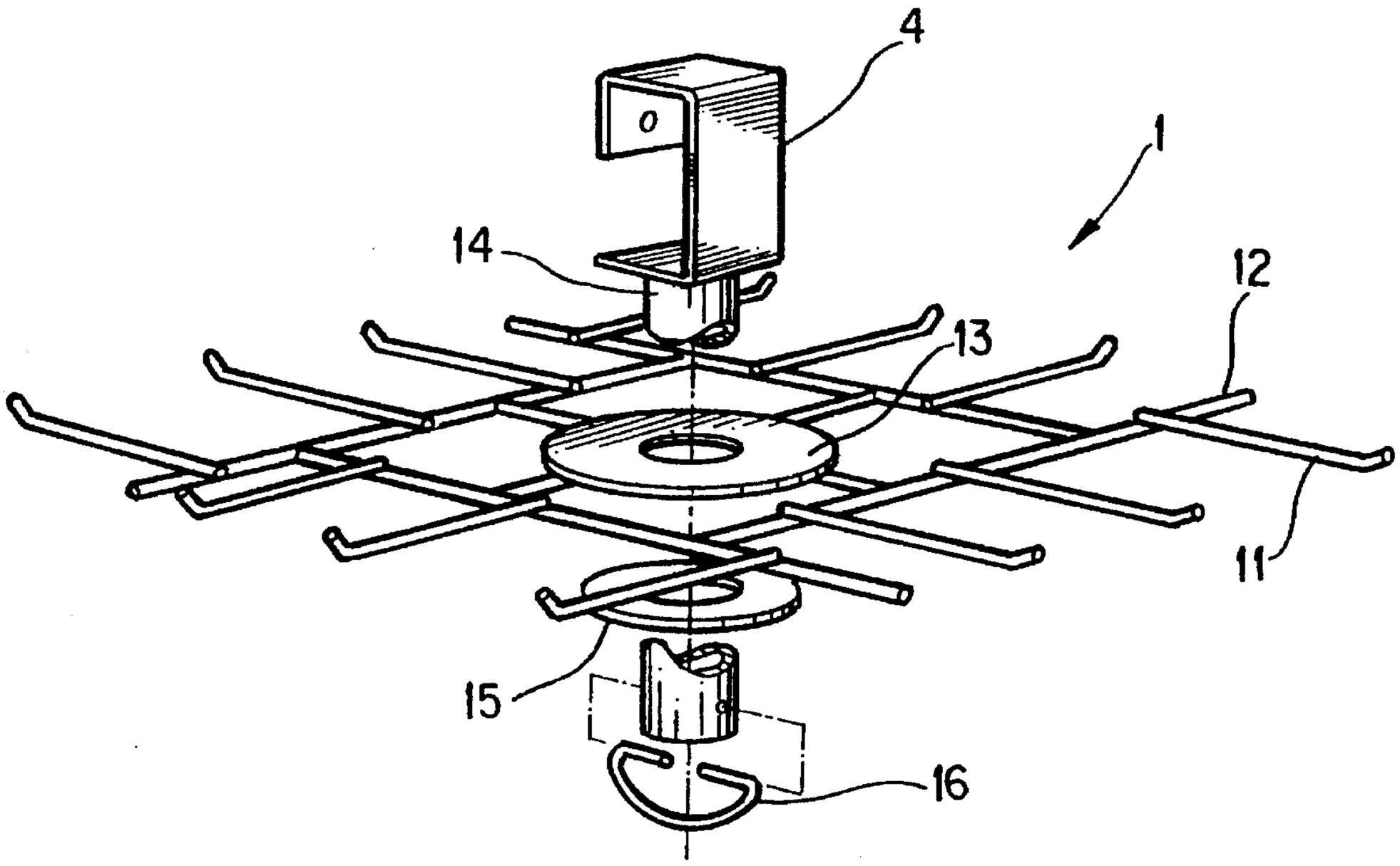


FIG. 2

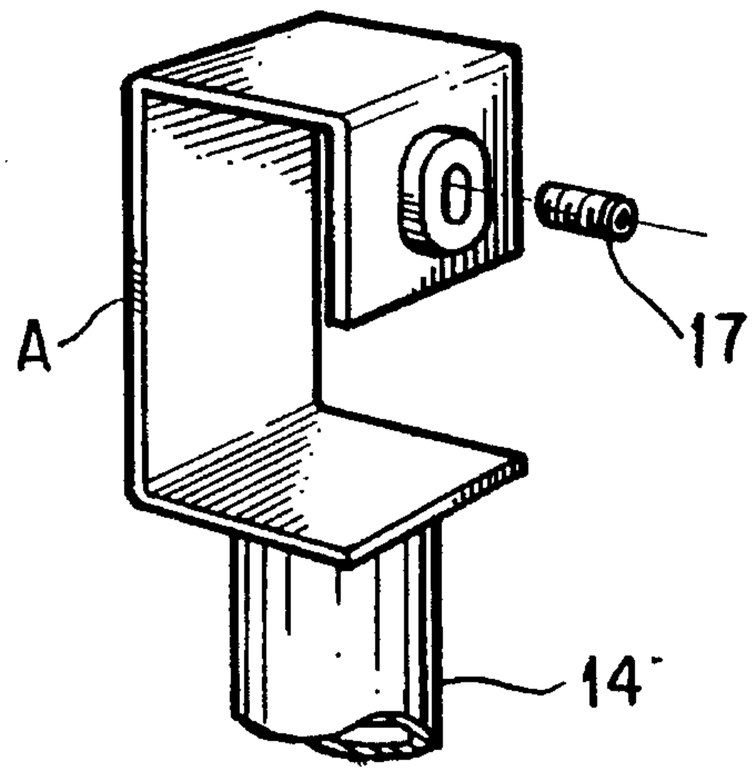


FIG. 3

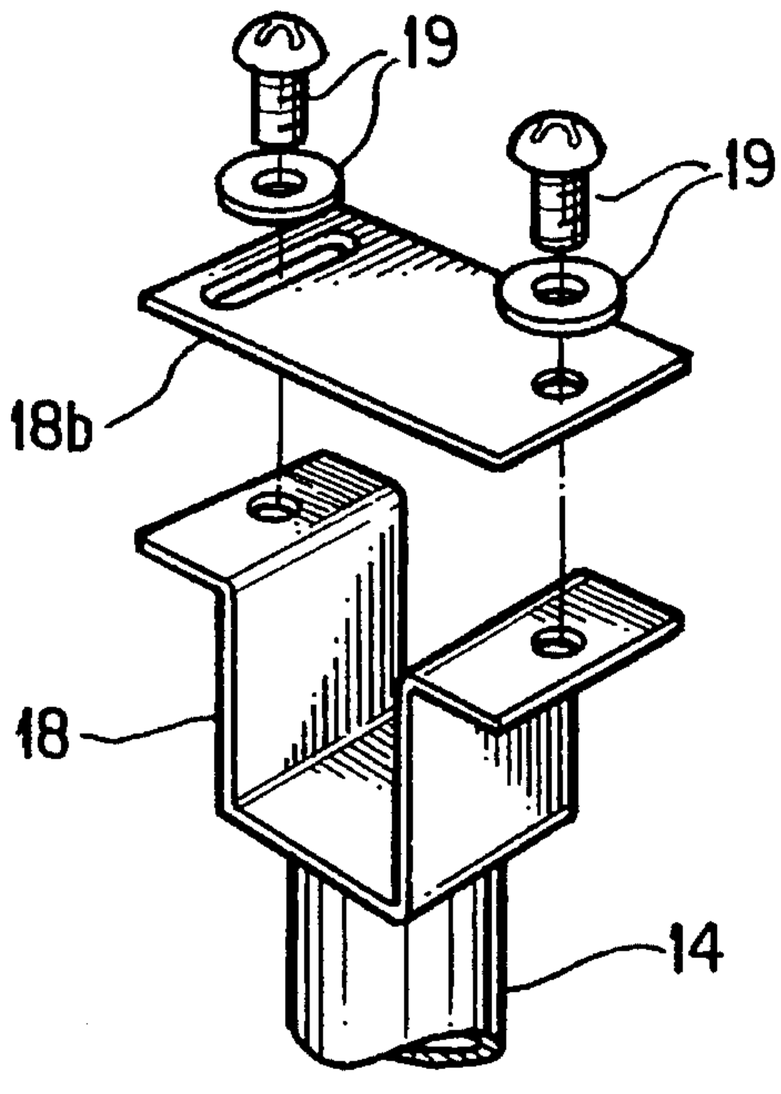


FIG. 4

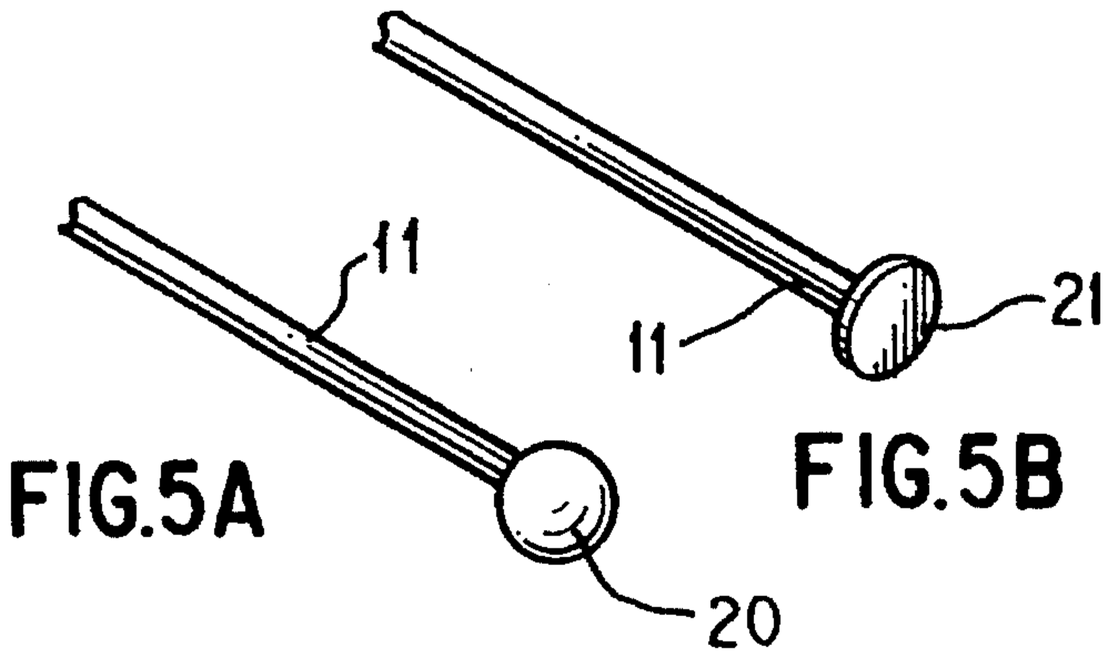


FIG.5A FIG.5B

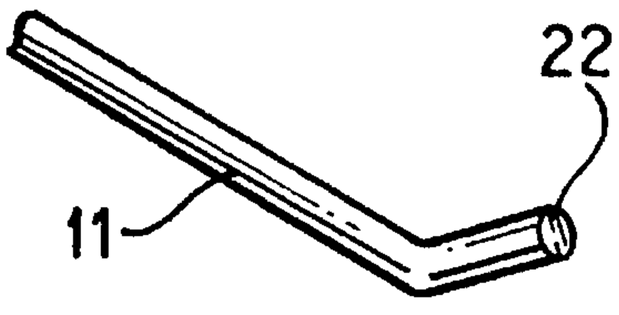


FIG.5C

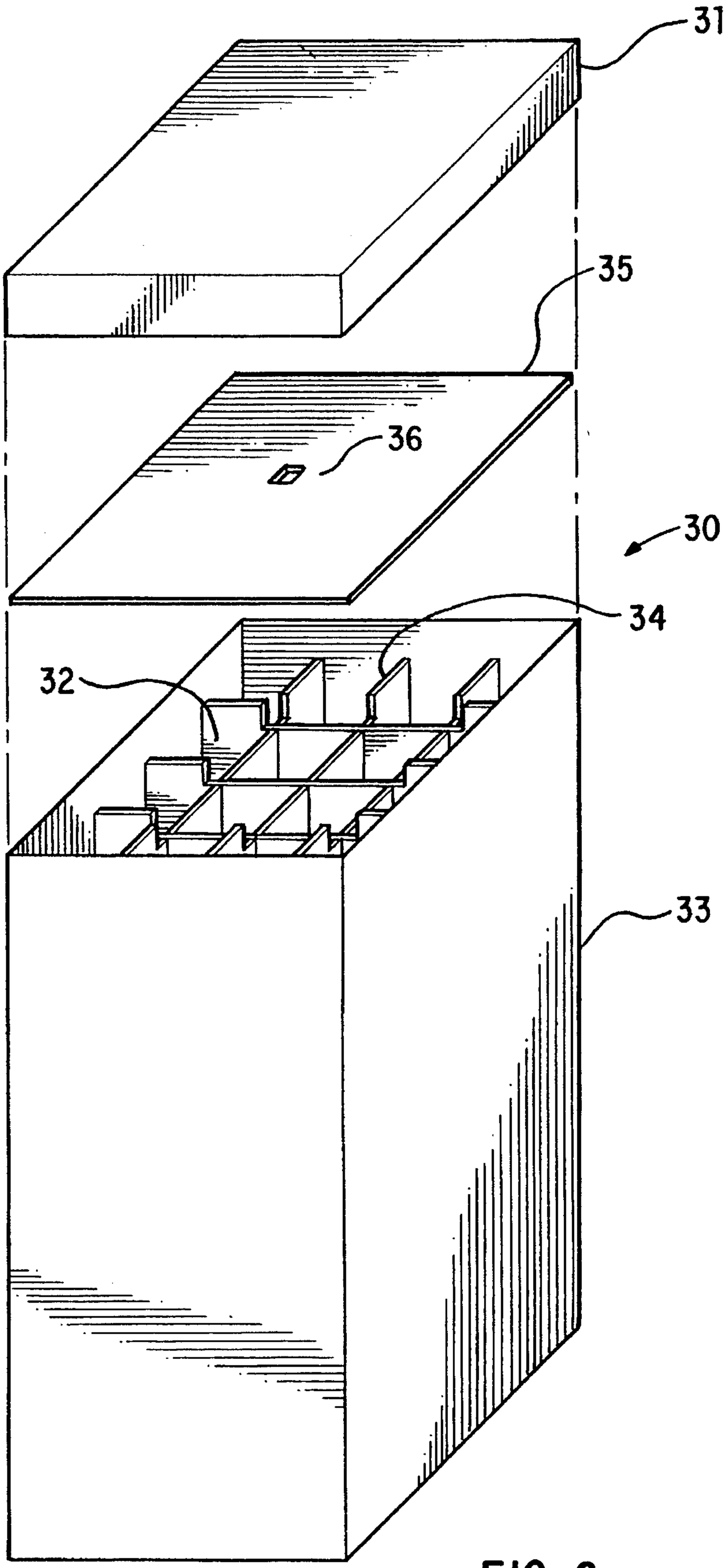


FIG. 6

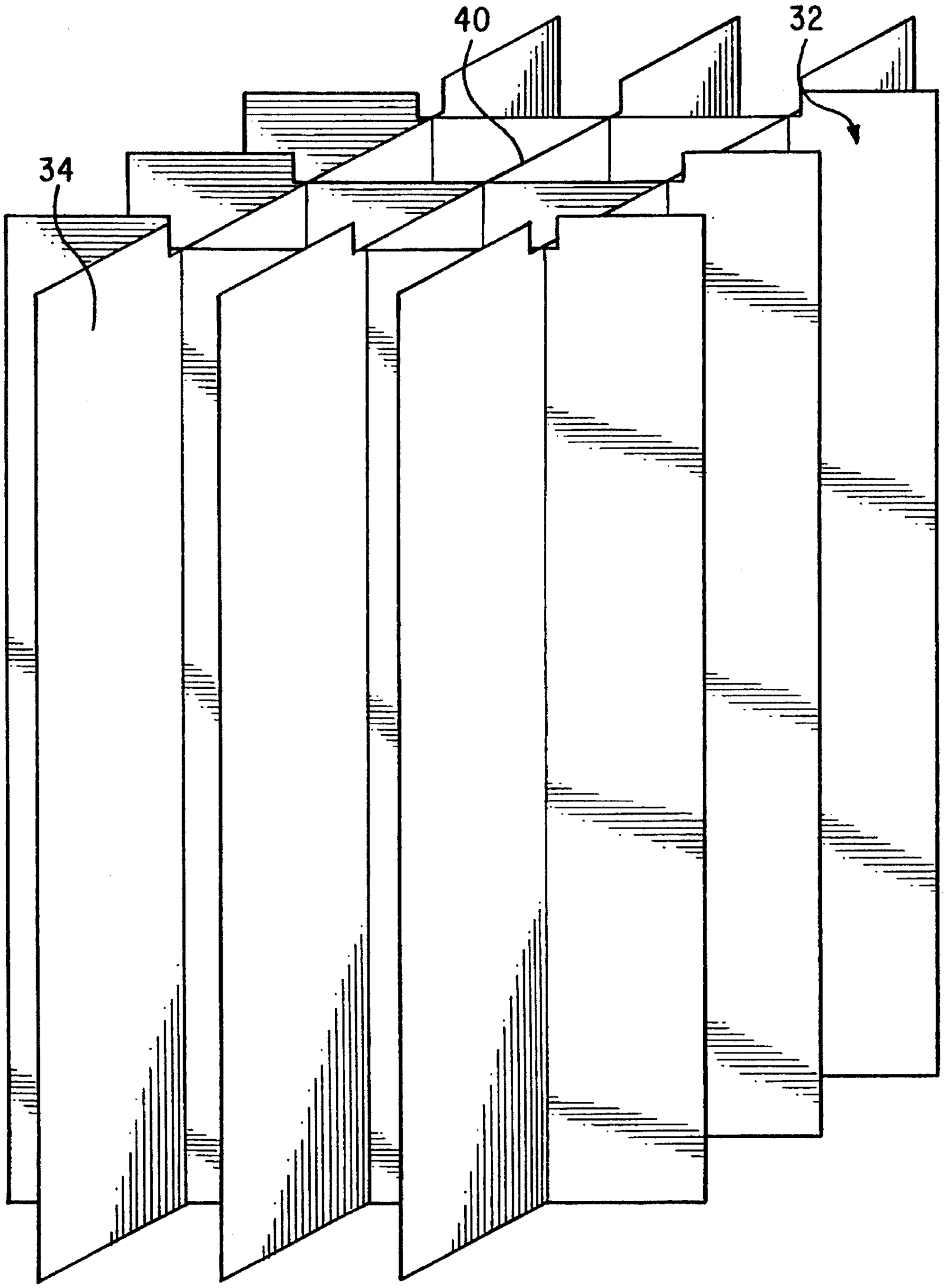


FIG. 7

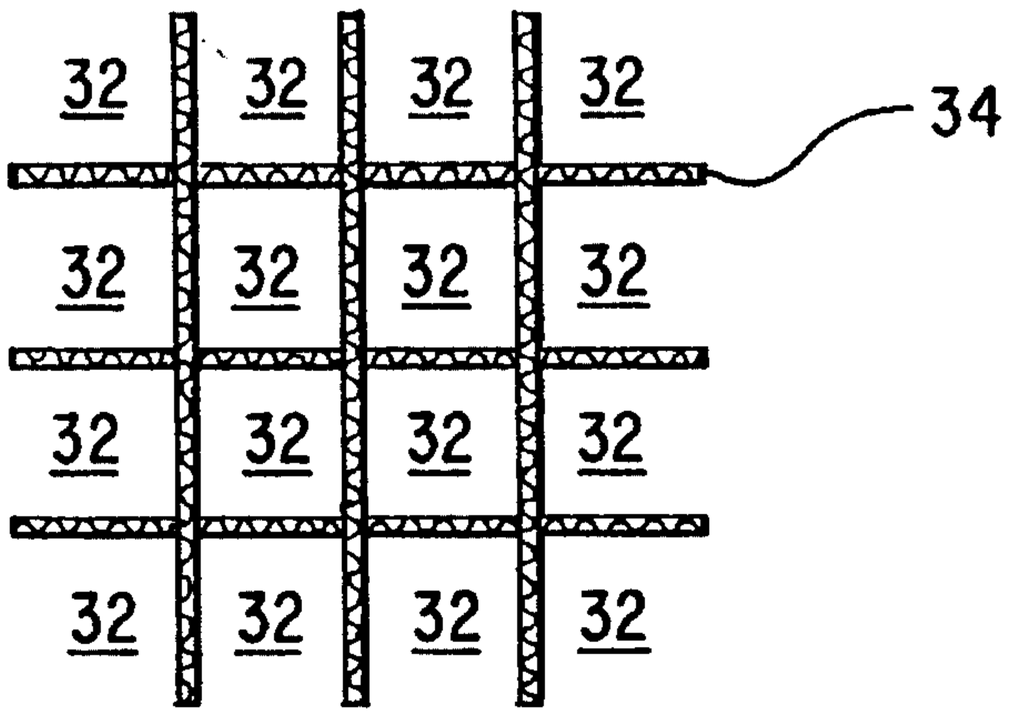


FIG. 10

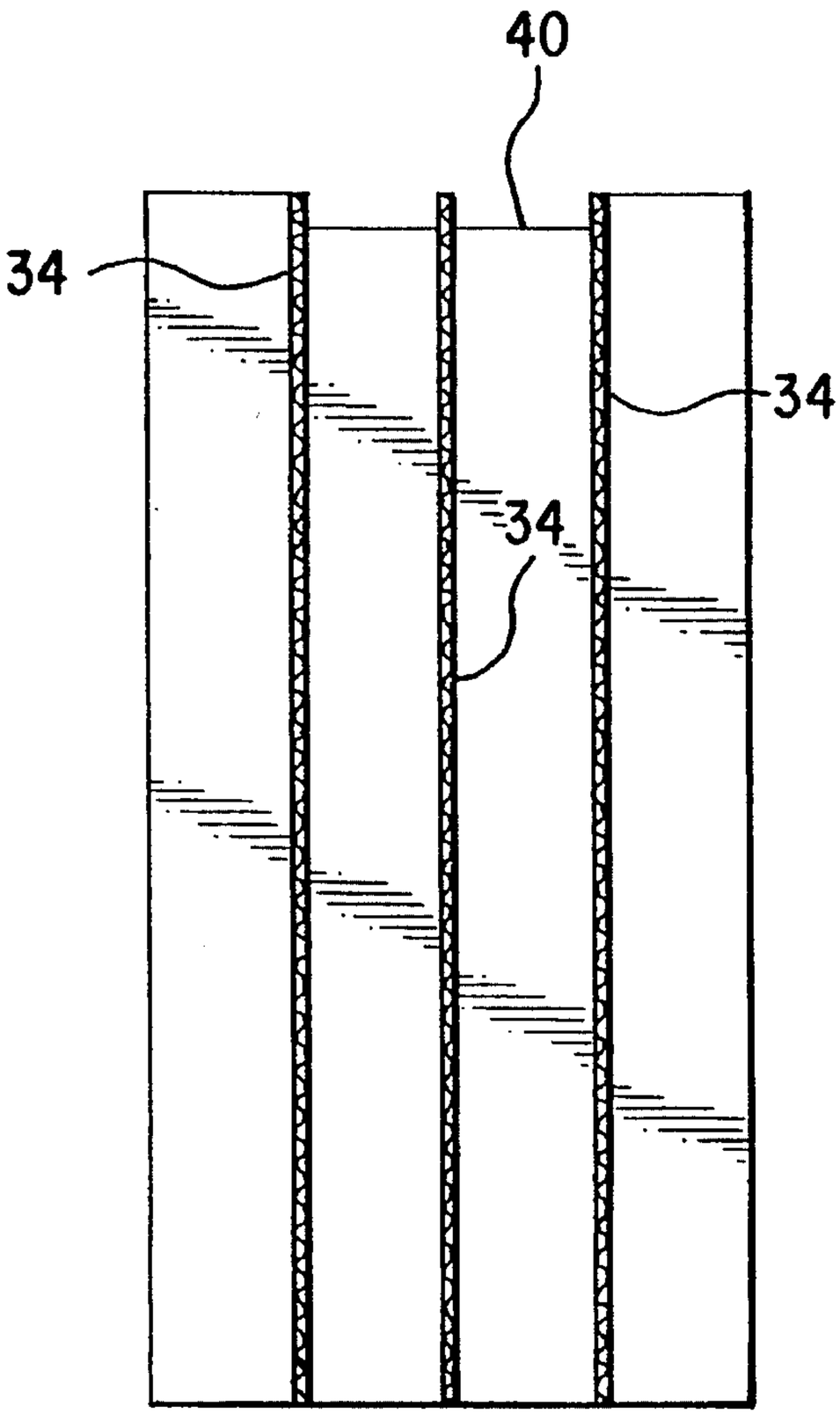


FIG. 9

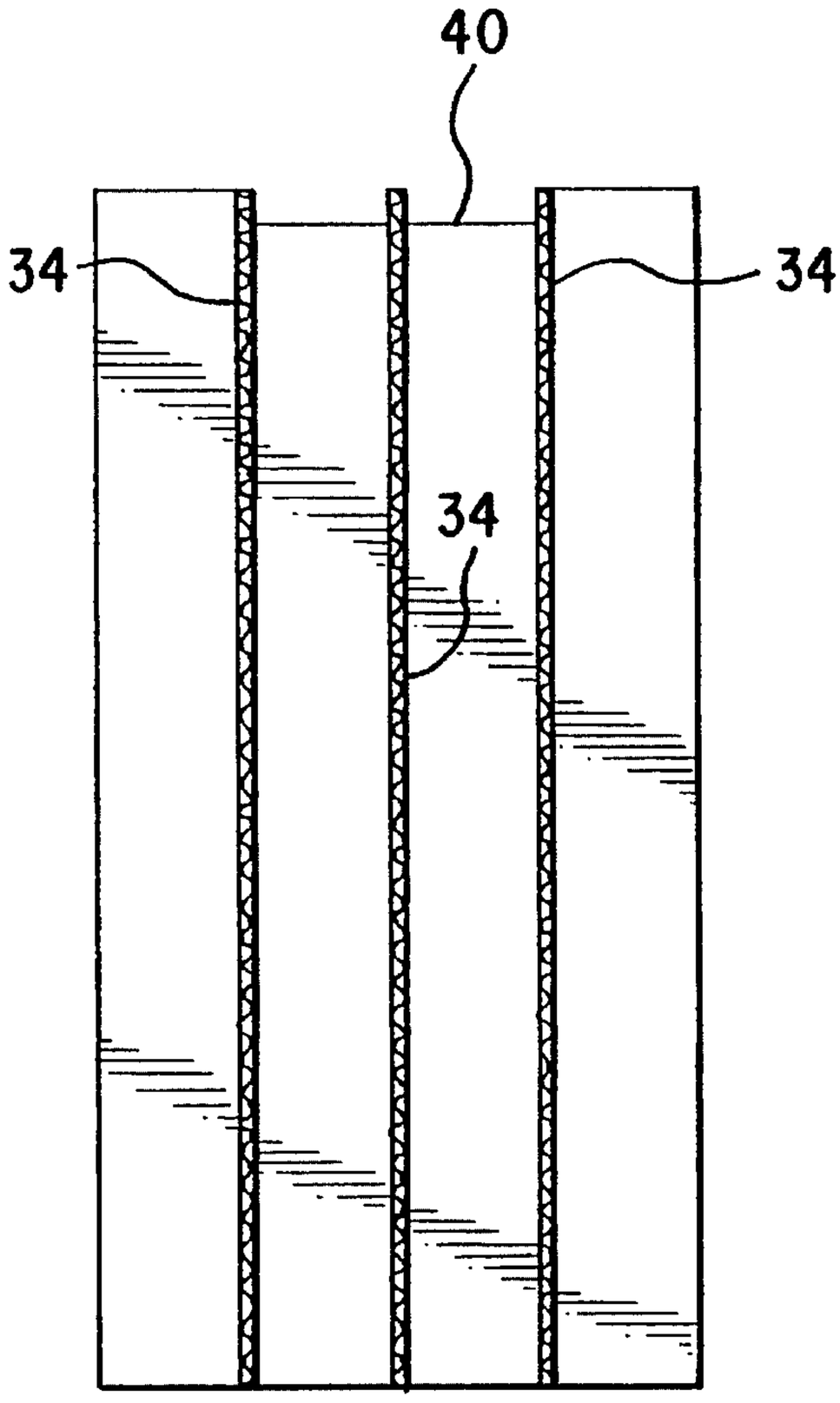


FIG. 8

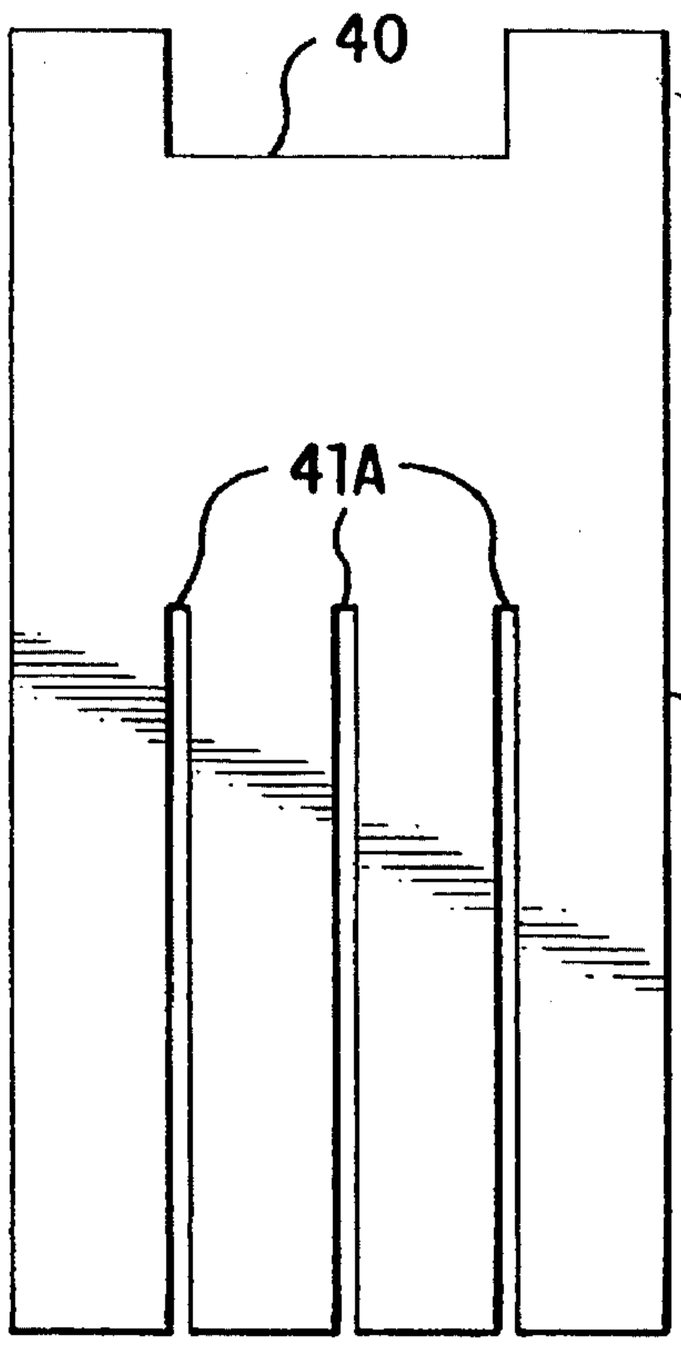


FIG. 11

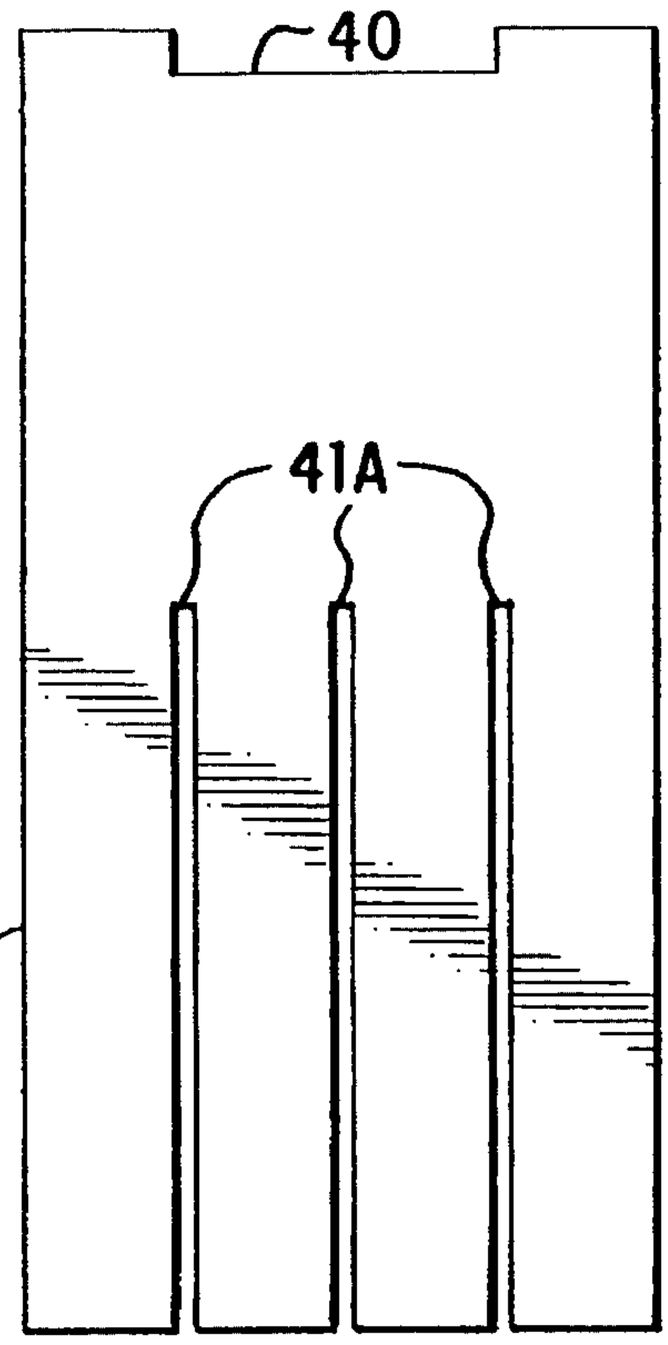


FIG. 12

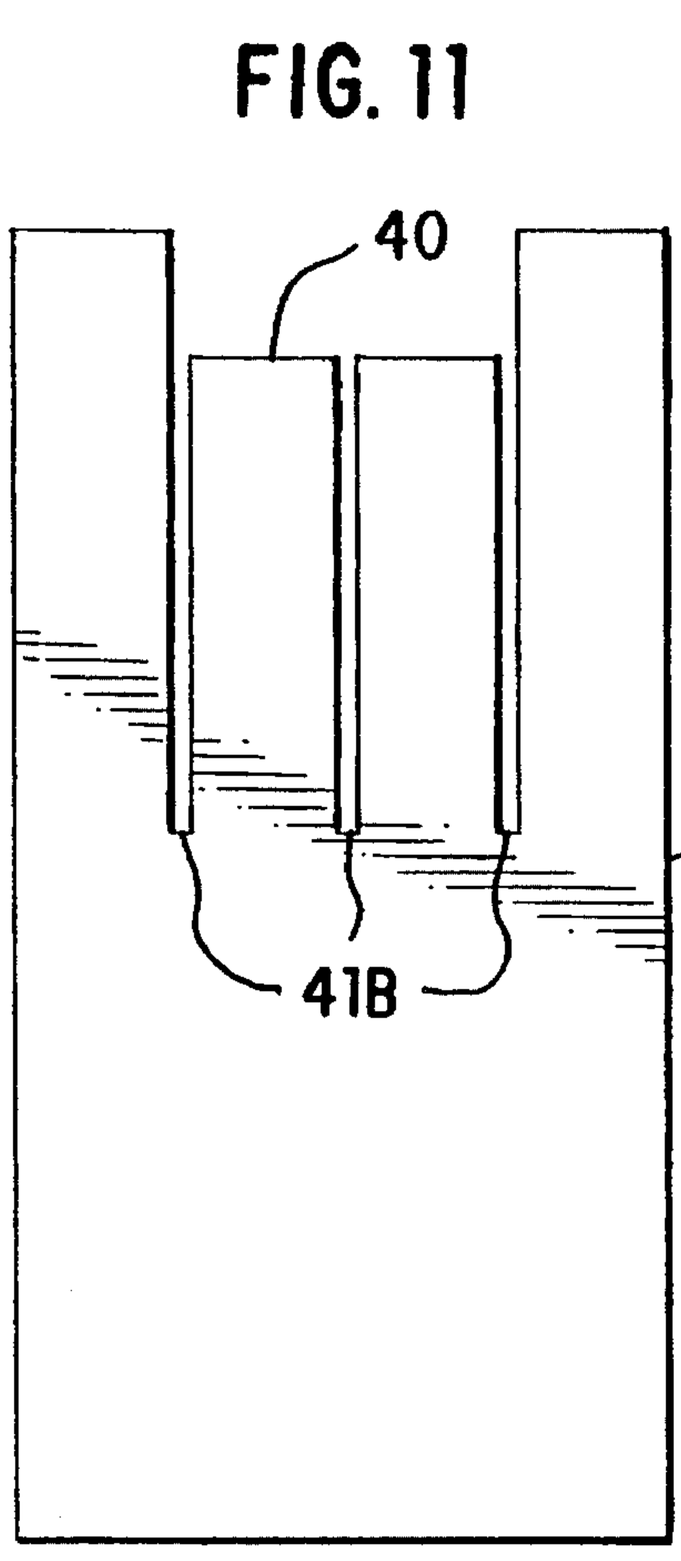


FIG. 13

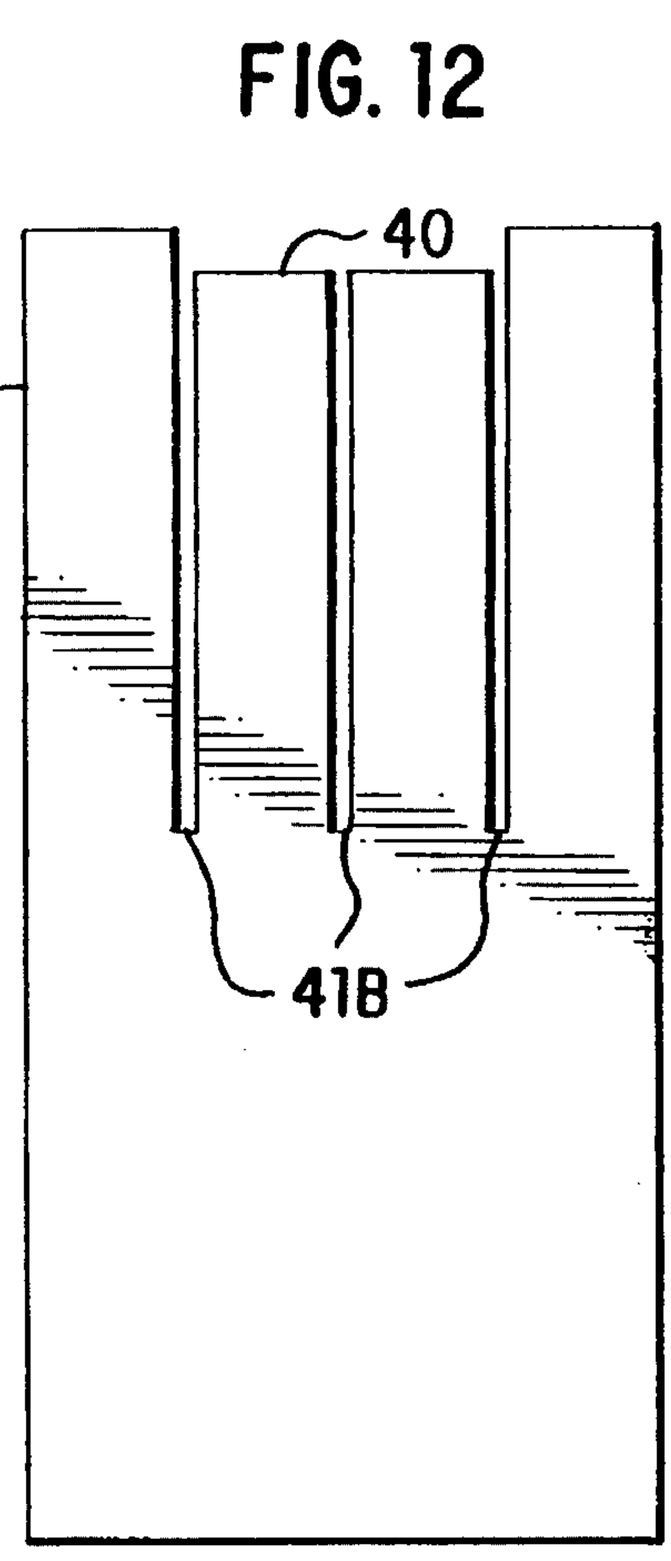


FIG. 14

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSPORTING AND DISPLAYING NECKTIES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a Divisional of application Ser. No. 07/912,984 which was filed on Jul. 14, 1992, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,249,668.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the combination of revolvable racks for transporting, displaying and hanging mens' neckties, and a container for shipping the rack while it is fully loaded with ties.

DISCUSSION OF THE PRIOR ART

The problem of efficiently organizing and storing neckties has always been a virtual nightmare for modern man. Over the years, many attempts have been made to solve this problem. Specifically, U.S. Pat. No. 2,459,417 to Dodge teaches a portable rack for suspending wearing apparel and the like from rods in closets, edges of shelves and the like, involving a wheel with radially extending fingers having spring clamps on the upper surfaces thereof, a collapsible supporting bracket with a clip at one end which may be resiliently held over a rod, edge of a shelf or the like, and an arcuate holding element at the other end with a slot in which the wheel can be supported in different positions.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,797,030 to Millhuff discloses a metal wire clothes hanger having a swivel hook. The hook swivels freely about an axis lying normal to the general axis of the arms.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,977,001 is directed to a portable laundry drying rack including a main support member having a plurality of spacer rod sections connected together in longitudinally aligned relationship by a coupling member and a hook end **21**.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,133,643 to Lester teaches a clamp-on tie hanger incorporating a split metal narrow clamping ring and tie supporting pins.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,225,977 to Gandy teaches an apparatus for hanging a plurality of clothes. A hook allows the apparatus to hang from a rod or bar.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,228,738 to Koffler teaches an article of luggage or the like, incorporating removable hanger supports and hooks mounted on the luggage.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,289,985 to Sheiman teaches an external hanger for a garment carrying bag having a hook which can be swung between an operative and an idle position.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,896,931 to Franklin concerns a hanger for ready-to-install pleated drapery panels, incorporating a coat hanger-like wire loop frame, a removable horizontal crossbar or shaft, a plurality of clamps and a J-shaped suspension hook.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,978,594 to Pulitzer et. al. discloses a floor standing display and merchandizing device for ties incorporating a rotatable frame and rack for hanging ties.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,709,838 to Campbell teaches an apparatus for hanging articles of clothing or the like in a closet, involving a hook on one end and elongated, vertically extending clothing hanging hooks.

None of the prior art patents solve the age-old problems associated with neckties however, in the manner presented by the instant invention. The instant tie rack invention offers a way of displaying a lot of neckties in a very little space. The rack can be hung from any conventional bar or rod, arrives fully assembled and stocked, and requires no special tools or skills to install. The rack can either hook onto a rod or bar, or it can be fastened to the bar or rod by a clamp that may be bolted in place.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a time saving and economical apparatus for transporting, hanging and displaying neckties.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a transportable, revolvable apparatus for hanging and displaying neckties.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a relatively inexpensive revolvable apparatus for hanging and displaying neckties that is adaptable for suspension from a conventional rod or bar, or from a merchandising fixture.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a carton for shipping the neckties while they are hanging from the display apparatus.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a labor saving method of shipping or storing neckties, an inexpensive revolvable rack for neckties that can be either temporarily or permanently hooked or fastened to a rod or a store fixture, and a container for shipping the rack while it is fully loaded with ties. The tie rack is easily rotated by hand, has a relatively small turning radius and has the capacity to hold several dozen ties. Once the tie rack is placed in the container, the container serves to both store and protect the ties in an organized and out-of-the-way manner. The container allows the fully loaded tie rack to be quickly and easily lifted out of the container in one smooth motion, and directly hung on a rod or on a merchandising fixture in a store, such that the ties are readily and pleasingly displayed. The present invention offers a tremendous labor saving advantage over prior art arrangements, and is also economical to use. Set-up time for the present invention is less than two minutes, compared to fifteen minutes to thirty minutes required for conventional systems.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent through consideration of the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the apparatus installed upon a rod and loaded with neckties;

FIG. **2** is an exploded view of the apparatus;

FIG. **3** is a detailed view of the support hook with thumb screw;

FIG. **4** is an exploded view of a bracket and clamp that may be used to support the apparatus;

FIGS. **5**A–**5**C are detailed views of the ends of the tines of the apparatus;

FIG. **6** shows an overall view of the enclosure, the compartments and a lid;

FIG. **7** is a detailed view of the compartments;

FIGS. **8** and **9** show a side view of the compartments;

FIG. **10** is a plan view of the compartments;

FIGS. **11–14** inclusive, are detailed views of the interlocking panels which form the compartments; and

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning now to the drawings, FIG. **1** shows the tie rack **1** (also referred to herein as simply the rack), fully loaded with neckties **2**, in its hanging position upon the bar or rod **3**. The tie rack **1** is reliably hung upon the bar or rod **3**, by a hook-like member **4** which can merely be seated upon the bar or rod **3**. No special tools, equipment or fittings are needed to position and install the tie rack **1** on the bar or rod **3**.

The tie rack **1** need not just be installed in a closet, but can also be hung upon any suitable display fixture in a store or other point of sale location. The tie rack **1** is revolvable, thereby enhancing its usefulness as a merchandising fixture. In fact, the principal feature of the tie rack **1**, is that it revolutionizes the merchandising of neckties **2**, by being easily removed from a transportable container and quickly set up to display the ties in a manner that would encourage purchasers to make a selection. The tie rack **1** allows the use of a small space to accommodate a lot of product.

It can readily be understood that the rack **1** can also be used to display any slender article of clothing such as socks or folded scarves, in which case the rack **1** can be seen as being quite versatile in its usefulness, although as herein described, as a preferred embodiment, the tie rack **1** will be discussed in terms of displaying neckties **2**.

Referring next to FIG. **2**, where the details of the tie rack **1** are presented in an exploded view, it can be seen that the hook **4** which serves to hang the rack **1** upon any transversely extending support member is connected to a four-sided frame made up of skeletal wire members **12**, outwardly extending fingers or tines **11**, a bearing plate **13** and a connecting rod **14**. The wire members **12** and the fingers or tines **11** create an apparatus capable of supporting at least several dozen neckties that are either fastened to their merchandising hooks, which are known in the trade as "riders", or that may be draped directly upon the wire members **12** and/or the tines **11** in what could be considered an organized arrangement, or just haphazardly placed in any which way. The neckties **2** can simply be draped over the tines on the wire members **12**. But, needless to say, if the rack **1** is serving to present neckties **2** for sale in a store, then the ties should be arranged upon and suspended from the tines **11** in an orderly manner.

Thus, it can readily be seen by the fact that the frame is made up of wire members **12**, neckties **2** can be hung from the wire members **12** directly, and need not only be hung from the tines **11**.

The wire members **12** are joined to one another and to the tines **11** in any reliable manner so as to give the frame structural rigidity that is suitable for supporting at least several dozen neckties. It is conceivable that the manner of joining may be, for instance, welding, soldering, lashing, etc. It is also conceivable that the tines **11** and wire members **12** can be made in one piece, such as by stamping from a single flat piece of material.

The frame, being four-sided, has the same dimensions on all sides, and any dimension is conceivable, from a measurement as small as **12** inches for use in tight spaces, or as large as is necessary to serve the needs of a busy haberdashery.

In the preferred embodiment, the tines **11** and wire members **12** have a circular cross-section, and are made of a light-weight but strong metal, such as aluminum, steel rod stock or an alloy. But, in another embodiment, the entire frame can be molded of a strong but light-weight plastic. If molded of plastic, the entire frame can be produced in a single operation consisting of only a few manufacturing steps.

The bearing plate **13** serves as a main load carrying element and support for the entire weight of the wire member **12** with tines **11**, and all neckties **2** supported thereon. The bearing plate **13** may be integral with the frame, or may be fastened thereto in any known manner suitable for the purpose. The plate **13** is flat, but of a thickness suitable for the purpose of supporting the frame. A circular shape is shown for the plate **13** in FIG. **2**, but almost any suitable shape would be acceptable.

The connecting rod **14** is an important element of the tie rack **1**. The rod **14** is tubularly shaped, the outer diameter of the tube being of such size that it can pass through a corresponding circular opening in the center position of the plate **13**. The rod **14** may be hollow or solid. The rod **14** must be tubular in shape in order to allow the frame to rotate in the plane parallel to the plane of the wire member **12**. In another embodiment, the rod **14** is telescoping; that is, it can collapse upon itself for transporting, but can extend to its full length when supporting the full weight of the tie rack **1**. The telescoping arrangement of the rod **14** can be any of the known and conventional configurations that may be suitable for sustaining the weight of the fully loaded tie rack **1** and container **30**. The telescoping rod **14** attaches to the hook **4** or clamp **18** in any well-known manner. Also, the telescoping rod **14** attaches to the frame in a well-known manner suitable for sustaining the tie rack **1** when it is fully loaded.

The frame rests upon a washer **15**, or any similar such component, preferably of the self-lubricating type, such as nylon, so as to facilitate smooth and dependable rotation. The lower part of the rod **14**, that is, the region below the washer **15**, is provided with fittings for retaining a smooth clip, fastener or pin **16** capable of contacting the underside of the washer **15** so as to support the entire frame. As can clearly be seen in FIG. **2**, the member **16** is shown as a C-clip whose ends fit into corresponding holes in the rod **14**, but a cotter pin or peg would be equally suitable. In other words, the weight of the frame carrying the neckties **2** is transmitted to the bar or rod **3** via the hook **4** to the bearing **13** through the washer **15** to the member **16**.

Turning now to FIG. **3**, a detail of the hook **4**, the preferred embodiment, is clearly shown. The rod **14** can be attached to the underside of the hook **4** by any reliable means, such as welding or soldering if the rod **14** and hook **4** are metal. But it is conceivable that both the rod **14** and the hook **4** are to be molded of plastic, in which case the parts can either be formed in one unitary piece, or molded separately and then fastened together in any well-known manner. A set screw **17** can optionally be provided to give additional securement to the bar **3**. Although FIG. **3** shows the hook **4** being joined to the top of the rod **14**, it can readily be conceived that the rod **14** can be joined to the rear face of the hook **4**.

FIG. **4** shows a bracket assembly **18** which can serve as an alternative to using the hook **4** shown in FIGS. **1–3**. The

bracket assembly **18** involves a bracket body **18***a* and a bracket plate **18***b* which fastens to the bracket body **18***a* by suitable screws and washers **19**. The bracket body **18***a* must be of dimensions compatible with the dimensions of the bar **3**, so that the bracket assembly **18** fits properly around the bar **3**. This alternative provides greater strength and permanence than the preferred embodiment, is more difficult to install, but can sustain more load carrying weight, thus would be recommended for a larger tie rack.

Details of the outer ends of the tines **11** are shown in FIG. **5**. The ends of the tines **11** can either be a ball **20** or a plate **21**, both of which can be chosen for their decorative and aesthetic properties, rather than mechanical aspects. The ball **20** or plate **21** also serves to prevent neckties from sliding off of the tines **11**. In addition, the tines **11** may simply have an upwardly turned hook **22**, which is capable of preventing the ties from falling off.

FIG. **6** depicts the integral container or carton **30** used for shipping the tie rack **1** while it is loaded with ties **2**. The carton **30** has a square cross-section and involves only four main parts, namely the box **33**, the internal dividers or partitions **34** and a lid **31**. The partitions **34** divide the interior of the box **33** into compartments **32** suitable for surrounding the neckties while they hang from the tie rack, in a manner to be described later. The lid **31** closes and seals the top of the box **33** so as to prevent the neckties **2** from falling out of the box **33** or becoming soiled during shipping and transporting.

A positioner **35** serves to hold the neckties **21**, while on their respective riders, on the frame or on the tines **11**. The positioning member **35** sits atop the tie rack **1** once the rack **1** is located within the box **33**, and prevents the ties **2** from falling off of the rack **1** or otherwise becoming disturbed. The positioner **35** is flat, thin and has the same shape as the cross-section of the box **33**, but has slightly larger dimensions so that the positioner **35** friction fits against the interior sides of the box **33**, so as to offer a snug fit. The positioner **35** can be made of almost any lightweight but strong material, such as that used for all other materials in the container **30**, but the positioner **35** can be made of other materials that are suitable for the purpose of holding the neckties **2** in place on the tie rack **1** while inside the container **30**. The positioner **35** has an opening **36** in its center through which the hook **4** or clamp **18** can pass. The opening **36** must be at least the same size as the connecting rod **14**. The positioner **35** does not interfere with the lid **31** in place on top of the box **33**.

The lid **31** may either be integral with the box **33**, such as fold-over flaps or the like, located at the top of the box **33**. The lid **31** can also be completely separate from the box **33**, as shown in FIG. **6**.

If the lid **31** is not integral with the box **33**, as shown in FIG. **6**, then the lid **31** must be suitably fastenable to the box **33**, such that the lid **31** cannot be easily removed, or will not fall off in case the box **33** is upset or falls over.

The integral container or carton **30**, which has at least the same size and dimensions as the tie rack **1**, protects the neckties **2** contained therein from the damaging effects encountered when the neckties are shipped. The neckties **2** arrive at their destination in a clean and pressed manner that gives them a fresh-from-the-factory appearance. It can readily be seen that the compartments **32** must be equal in number to the number of tines **11** carried by the frame, so that the group or bundle of neckties hanging on each individual tines **11** is made to fill a single compartment **32** in a vertically hanging fashion.

The manner in which the ties **2** occupy the compartments **32** will now be described with reference to FIG. **7**, together with the remaining figures. The compartments **32** are formed by the dividers or partitions **34**. The dividers **34** have a recessed region **40** which is located on the innermost part of the upper edge surface of the dividers **34**. The dimensions of the recess **40** directly correspond to the dimensions of the wire member **12**.

As can most clearly be seen in FIGS. **8** and **9**, the recess region **40** is permanently formed on the top of the center part of the dividers **34** only, and does not extend completely to the outer edges of the dividers **34**. The actual size and shape of the recess region **40** conforms to the size and shape of the tie rack frame, which is clearly shown in FIG. **2**, such that the tie rack frame rests within the recess **40** in a nestled fashion.

FIG. **10** is a top or plan view of the dividers **34**, showing the compartments **32**. The compartments **32** are of the size and shape necessary to accommodate the neckties **2** as they hang from the tie rack **1**, which itself is nestled atop the dividers **34** in the recess **40**. The recess **40** cannot be clearly seen in FIG. **10**, because of the top or plan view which is shown therein.

The dividers or partitions **34** can be made of any material offering suitable rigidity and mechanical strength capable of supporting and sustaining the fully loaded tie rack **1**. In the preferred embodiment, the dividers or partitions **34** are formed of corrugated cardboard, as are both the lid **31** and the box **33**. Corrugated cardboard is chosen for its well-known properties of light weight, low cost and mechanical strength. As a further precaution, the corrugated cardboard used for construction of the lid **31** and the box **33** can be coated with a water-repellant coating to add an additional layer of protection for the neckties **2** contained within the box **33**. It was well within contemplation of the present invention that the box **33** be made of a strong but transparent material so as to allow the contents of the box **33** to be openly viewed and regarded for their visual appeal. As an alternative, a portion of the sides of the box **33**, or any or all sides of the box **33**, can be provided with a transparent panel also for the purpose of allowing the neckties **2** contained within the box **33** to be viewed. Selection of the strong but transparent material may depend upon, among other things, cost, weight, etc. Furthermore, the transparent material may be any attractive and pleasing color or shade, which quite possibly could be used to indicate a particular manufacturer, destination or style of necktie **2**. Similarly, either or both the lid **31** or box **33** can carry indicia setting forth relevant information about the ties **2** which is desired to be disclosed.

In the preferred embodiment, the lid **31** and the box **33** are reusable. However, it is conceivable that they each can be disposable, such that, after one or possibly two uses, both the lid **31** and the box **33** can be discarded or processed for environmental recycling when no longer needed, in any well-known manner.

FIGS. **11–14** show details of the dividers **34**. The dividers **34** can be manufactured in any well-known manner, and in the preferred embodiment, the dividers **34** are also made of corrugated cardboard. However, the dividers **34** can be made of plastic, paperboard, or any other material suitable for the purpose of containing a full load of neckties **2** hanging from the tie rack **1** and supporting the tie rack within the recess **40**.

The dividers **34** shown in FIGS. **11** and **12** each mate with the dividers **34** shown in FIGS. **13** and **14** in an interlocking manner, such that the cut-outs **41**A intersect with the cut-outs **41**B to create the cross-hatched compartmental arrange-

ment shown in FIG. **10**. The interlocking of the cut-outs **41A,41B** provides the necessary fastening needed to cause the dividers **34** to retain their shape, thus no adhesive or mechanical fastener is needed, which may tend to mar or damage the neckties.

Once inside the container or carton **30**, the tie rack **1** is nestled in the recess **40**, and snugly set atop the dividers **34**. When the tie rack **1** is fully loaded with ties **2**, which are suspended from the tines **11**, the ties **2** fall neatly into place within the compartments **32**. Thus, the neckties **2** can be transported within the container or carton **30** wrinkle-free, and in a safe manner. Once the container **30** arrives at its destination, the lid **31** is removed from the box **33**, and the tie rack **1** with the neckties **2** hanging in place is lifted all at once from atop the recess **40**, and conveniently hung up for display or selection.

It is conceivable that the container **30** can be used to store the ties **2**, while they hang from the rack **1**, within the container **30**, and the container **30** is sealed by the lid **31**. The ties **2** are protected from dust, sunlight-which tends to fade colors—moisture, wrinkling and all other detrimental effects, while enclosed within the container **30**. Furthermore, it is conceivable that the container **30** may include a treatment to ward off undesirable pests and insects, such as moths. The instant tie rack **1** and container **30** provide a quick and convenient way to take the ties **2** directly from a manufacturing, shipping, transportation or storage mode, to a more useful mode such as display or selection. With the instant invention, the formerly costly, labor-intensive and time-consuming step of unpacking new neckties from their shipping box, sorting the new neckties and then hanging them up, is effectively eliminated. Instead, with the present invention, the ties can be sorted and hung upon the rack **1** by the manufacturer, and then shipped already in a condition for presentation in a manner conducive to brisk sale.

The present invention easily fits into an existing space and requires no special tools or skills to install. In fact, the maximum amount of time required to set up the present invention is approximately two minutes, which is a tremendous time savings over the present method which may take up to a half-hour to completely set up. Furthermore, due to the fact that the present invention already comes fully assembled and fully stocked, no in-store or in-home service is ever necessary, thereby offering a greater cost and time savings for a busy merchant or businessman.

Although the invention has been herein described in conjunction with a preferred embodiment, and various alternate constructions have been disclosed, it is to be appreciated that various modifications may be made without deviating from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A vertically elongated container for transporting an apparatus for suspending slender articles of clothing, said apparatus including a rotatable load bearing means, a frame having a plurality of individual outwardly extending tines, and a support bracket attached to the geometric center of said frame, said apparatus being completely positionable within the container while carrying the slender articles of clothing, said container comprising:

an upright standing container having rigid walls;

said container interiorly divided into a plurality of vertically extending compartments by partitining elements the number of compartments corresponding to the number of individual outwardly extending tines, each partition element having a centrally located recess extending downwardly from a top edge thereof; and

a top closure;

whereby the slender articles of clothing carried by the apparatus are simultaneously contained within the container and supported by the edges of the walls forming the vertically extending compartments in a manner allowing the apparatus to be directly and easily removed from the container and suspended from a horizontally extending bar or rod, without the slender articles of clothing being wrinkled, soiled or otherwise damaged.

2. The invention of claim **1**, wherein said container, said top closure and/or said interior partitions are made of corrugated cardboard.

3. The invention of claim **1**, wherein said container, said top closure and said interior partitions are made of dissimilar materials.

4. The container of claim **1**, wherein said container, said top closure and said interior partitions are transparent.

5. The container of claim **1**, wherein said articles of clothing are neckties.

6. The container of claim **1**, wherein said upright standing container has a rectangular cross-section.

7. The container of claim **1**, wherein said upright standing container has a square cross-section.

8. The container of claim **1**, wherein said support bracket is attached to the geometric center of said frame via a telescoping member.

9. The container of claim **8**, including a positioning member, disposed in the space located between the top of said slender articles of clothing suspended from said frame and the underside of said top closure, said positioning member having a centrally located opening through which protrudes said hook or bracket, said positioning member substantially covering the top of said slender articles of clothing, said positioning member being held in place by friction fit with the interior sides of said container, such that said positioning member reliably maintains the position of said hanging slender articles of clothing.

10. The container of claim **1**, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

a horizontally disposed quadrangular wire frame supporting said plurality of individual outwardly extending tines, said frame having a geometric center;

a means for attaching, perpendicularly, a first end of said rotatable load bearing means, to the geometric center of said horizontally disposed wire frame;

said means for attaching said first end includes a telescoping intermediate member; and

a means for attaching a second end of said rotatable load bearing means to a horizontally extending bar or rod, such that, when said slender articles of clothing are suspended from said tines, said apparatus is entirely rotatable in the horizontal plane.

11. The container of claim **10**, wherein said means for attaching the second end of said rotatable load bearing means to said horizontally extending bar or rod comprises a hook.

12. The container of claim **11**, wherein said hook incorporates a set screw for fastening said hook to said horizontally extending bar or rod.

13. The container of claim **10**, wherein said means for attaching the second end of said rotatable load bearing means to said horizontally extending bar or rod comprises a bracket and clamp.

14. The container of claim 10, wherein said means for attaching, perpendicularly, the first end of said rotatable load bearing means to the geometric center of said horizontally disposed wire frame comprises a load bearing snap-on C-ring or cotter pin and a self-lubricating washer interposed between said C-ring or cotter pin and said geometric center.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein said self-lubricating washer comprises nylon.

16. The container of claim 10, wherein the distal end of each of said outwardly extending tines includes a decorative sphere or disc.

17. The container of claim 10, wherein the distal end of each of said outwardly extending tines includes an upwardly turned hook.

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